

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Canada is a federal monarchy composed of 10 provinces and 3 territories. At the local level, there are 3,959 municipalities.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Canada has been an overt supporter of the SDG framework since it was established in 2015, but it doesn't have a formal national framework for the implementation of the SDGs. A first iteration of a strategy has been drafted that was to be formalized in early 2020 (**Canada 2030 Agenda**).³

Canada's Federal Sustainable Development Act (2008) provides the legal framework for the development and implementation of the **Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS)**, which currently facilitates greater transparency and accountability for environmental decision making, and sustainable development planning and reporting within the federal government. It sets out Canada's federal environmental priorities, establishes goals and targets and identifies actions to achieve them.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The power to implement the SDGs at the federal level is organized through the parliament's legislative power, the executive branch, and several regulations and powers already granted to each sectoral department. The **Minister of Children, Families and Social Development** has been mandated to lead Canada's implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in collaboration with all other ministers and their departments. The coordination of the SDGs at the federal level is done through **Employment Social Development Canada** and the **SDG Unit**.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

No reference.

1.3 MONITORING

Statistics Canada launched the **Sustainable Development Goals Data Hub** in 2018 as a centralized knowledge resource to track SDG implementation. The SDG Unit will also support the monitoring and reporting of Canada's domestic and international efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

IISD, a Canadian-based think-tank dedicated to promoting human development and environmental sustainability, has established an SDG Knowledge Hub. This data portal includes a series named '**Tracking the SDGs in Canadian Cities**', which has so far provided data on the 14 largest Canadian municipalities. IISD has also produced briefing notes providing specific overviews on how these cities stand in regard to the most relevant SDGs.⁴

Canada's Gender Results Framework articulates goals for gender equality and how progress will be measured. Systematic use of **Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)** will inform federal policy, program development and implementation and other activities, including gender-based budgeting and inclusive consultations.⁵

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOF12019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20312Canada_ENGLISH_18122_Canadas_Voluntary_National_ReviewENv7.pdf (2018)

3. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

4. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>. See also: <https://www.iisd.org/>

5. GBA+ is an analytical tool to assess how different groups of women, men and gender-diverse people may experience policies, programs and initiatives. The "plus" refers to the consideration of intersecting factors such as race, ethnicity, age, disability and sexual orientation, as well as sex and gender.

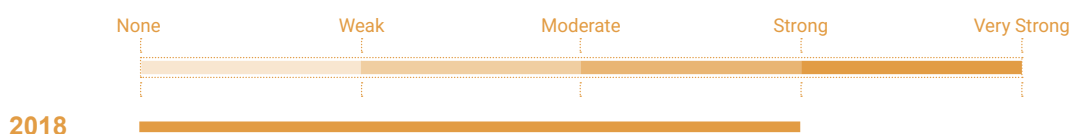
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The federal government has made an effort to engage provincial and local governments along with the private sector and civil society in meetings and documents preparation. For the time being, however, commitment from these partners has remained non-compulsory and somewhat marginal. Coordination among local, regional and federal governments for the implementation of the SDGs has not been clearly or institutionally defined. Multilateral or cross-tier initiatives are, in fact, often used for policy coordination purposes. For instance, the PanCanadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change is managing Canada's plan towards the fulfillment of the Paris Agreement's commitment on climate change, in collaboration with provinces and territories. These kinds of initiatives do not normally involve municipal governments directly.⁶

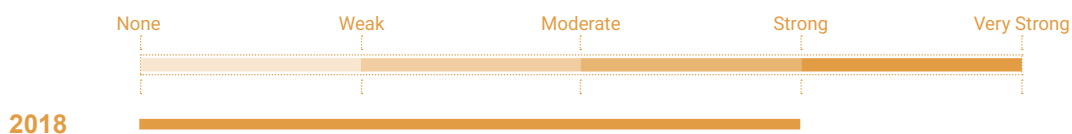
The **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)** is the most influential municipal network in Canada. The FCM addresses many issues relevant to the SDG targets in its national and international programmes – e.g. Municipalities for Climate Innovation, Municipal Asset Management, First Nations-Municipal Collaboration, Partners for Climate Protection, and Towards Parity in Municipal Politics. **Partners for Climate Protection** is aimed at assisting Canadian municipalities in taking action on climate change by reducing their emissions in their municipalities. This programme is now being seen as the Canadian chapter of the **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy**, in partnership with the International Urban Cooperation. Moreover, the FCM hosts the Big City Mayors' Caucus, which has long been the national voice and forum for the 22 largest municipalities in Canada. Many of the issues addressed by the Big City Mayors' Caucus are closely linked to the localization of the SDGs.⁷ The FCM was involved in the VNR process in 2018. Since then, the association has continued discussions with the government on its national strategy for SDG implementation.⁸

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: FCM: puntual participation. Same for the city of Kitchener (GTF Survey 2021).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2018 VNR contains some references to provincial and local governments, and a few boxes on inspiring practices (**Montreal**, **North Vancouver**, **Plessisville**, etc.). There is also a box on the FCM.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Some municipalities (e.g. **Calgary**, **Edmonton**, **Saint John**, **Toronto**) have poverty reduction strategies.⁹

► In 2009, the city of **North Vancouver** developed a 100-year sustainability vision with a view to becoming a net zero community by 2107. With the opportunity to reduce emissions by as much as 30% through land-use decisions alone, the implementation of this vision accommodates growth through adherence to the following key design principles: homes are a 5-minute walking distance to services, jobs are close to homes, appropriate housing, access to greenspace, durable green infrastructure, and climate change adaptation. Projects to date include street tree planting, walk-to-school initiatives and building retrofits. Funds are targeted directly to specific, local programs, which would otherwise not be possible.

► In 2016, the Agglomeration Council of **Montreal** adopted Sustainable Montreal 2016-2020: an ambitious plan that relies on the mobilization and commitment of Montréal organizations working with the municipal administration to achieve 20

6. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

7. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

8. Answer of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

9. See: https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/9787-TO_Prosperty_Final2015-reduced.pdf;

<https://www.endpovertyedmonton.ca/our-strategy>; <https://enoughforall.ca/>;

<https://www.newwestcity.ca/community-poverty-reduction-initiative>

actions that contribute to progress on the SDGs. Actions and achievements toward the Plan are highlighted in the Sustainable Montreal Report, published in June 2018. In its Economic Development Strategy, as in its Sustainable Montreal Plan, Montreal is committed to accelerating its economic development in a sustainable, inclusive and innovative manner.

Overall, **Montreal** is showing significant leadership on SDG target 11.2 (safe, affordable transit). It has developed a transportation electrification strategy, which includes electrifying public transportation and its own fleet of vehicles, providing electric-friendly parking with charging stations, and adopting strategies to encourage residents and the private sector to use electric vehicles. The Montreal transit electrification strategy also takes a lead on SDG Target 11.3 (sustainable urban planning). The city's planned sustainable transit is supposed to be integrated with housing solutions and an urban centre that can support long-term growth without creating pollution or placing strains on natural resources. It plans to incorporate electrification into city planning processes, ensure that new housing builds are fitted with electric charging stations, and develop incentives for retrofits that offer more charging stations. Its focus on public transit also puts it in a position to grow sustainably.¹⁰

► The town of **Plessisville** (Quebec) is one of the leading cities in terms of sustainable development in Quebec. One of the five areas of development of Plessisville's strategic plan (2015-2025) is the promotion and development of a healthy, preserved and sustainable environment. As such, the municipality has implemented several approaches focused on sustainable development. Plessisville is the first municipality in Quebec to complete the five stages of the Partners in Climate Protection program. It has taken the necessary measures to reduce GHG emissions and improve energy efficiency, making Plessisville a leader in the local fight against climate change.

► The Office of Diversity and Inclusion connects the **Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)** with Indigenous, African Nova Scotian, immigrant and other racialized communities to ensure consultation with those groups, to ensure they're kept informed of programs and services offered by the municipality. The Office also holds training and awareness sessions for all employees to ensure that diversity and inclusion remain integral values of HRM policies and practices. As part of its initiatives, HRM works with the African Nova Scotian and Racially Visible Women's Network, meeting quarterly to share knowledge, professional skills and set goals for individual and collective growth. They also work with the Racially Visible Employee Caucus, which offers employment and professional advancement support and guidance to racially visible employees.

► The **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)**'s Community Economic Development Initiative focuses on enhancing the capacity of municipalities and adjacent First Nations to complete joint community economic development (CED) plans and strategies and develop long-term CED collaboration. The project is supporting 10 community partnerships, using a phased approach over three cycles from September 2016 to April 2021. The partnerships between First Nations and municipalities across Canada focus on joint initiatives on issues such as employment strategies, business parks and land-use planning, and mapping culturally significant sites to aid with tourism and improve public consultation.

The Partnership for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) by the **FCM**, in the framework of the Partnership for Municipal Innovation program, began in 2021. This project will work in five countries: Benin, Cambodia, Ghana, Sri Lanka and Zambia. On the basis of the Canadian experience, this initiative will support women municipal councillors and local governments in partner countries as they work to deliver more inclusive services and reduce the barriers to women's participation in local governance. The FCM will engage regional networks in Africa and Asia, as well as global municipal networks, in the implementation of the program. The Partnership for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) is a six-year program, supported by a contribution of up to \$26 million from Global Affairs Canada, with an additional in-kind contribution of \$1.61 million from Canadian municipal experts.¹¹

The FCM, through partnerships with and funding from the Government of Canada, delivers more than \$25 million annually in nearly 30 countries, working in collaboration with municipal governments and agencies across the globe, with an emphasis on strengthening local governance and democracy, fostering economic development and promoting gender equality and environmental sustainability. The FCM launched, for example, a \$20.7-million, five-year initiative to mobilize municipal leaders and staff to provide peer-to-peer technical assistance to elected officials and municipal staff in Jordan, where some 1.4 million Syrian refugees seek housing. The program seeks to strengthen leadership and administrative capacity, enhance solid waste management and share knowledge, good practices and lessons learned to benefit municipalities.

► The **Association of Municipalities Ontario** has taken action at a more local level by creating a low-carbon Economy Opportunities Task Force to advise member municipalities in their transition to a low-carbon economy, as well as offering municipal perspectives on provincial and federal policies.¹²

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

The city of **Winnipeg** published two VLRs, in 2018 and 2020.¹³ **Kelowna** developed its VLR in 2021.¹⁴

10. See: http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/Pls/Portal/Docs/Page/Proj_urbains_fr/Media/Documents/Transportation_elec and UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

11. See: http://www.cib-uclg.org/sites/default/files/uclg-cib_gender_equality_publication_june2021.pdf

12. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

13. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/winnipeg_2018.pdf and https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/winnipeg_2020.pdf

14. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/kelowna_2021.pdf

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In its latest budget, the national government committed USD 37 million (approximately CAD 50 million) to establish the SDG unit within Employment Social Development Canada and monitor and report on Canada's efforts on implementation.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Municipalities and local stakeholders have raised a certain degree of awareness and mobilized on disaster resilience in the face of climate change threats and impact. Nonetheless, there has been little local action to update local policies, infrastructure or resources to manage this threat. A case such as **British Columbia (BC)** – where all municipalities are now required to have local climate change action plans and 84% of them have undertaken public mobilization and education initiatives as part of their climate change-related policies – remains more an isolated example of good practice than the symptom of a structural trend.¹⁵

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Women represented 16% of mayors and 27% of councillors as of 2014. There is however wide variation across the different jurisdictions: in the three territories, women account for one quarter to three-fifths of all elected local government members, while Manitoba and Saskatchewan have the lowest representation of women.¹⁶ The FCM produced in 2012 a policy note on "Women in Local Government: Getting to 30% by 2026".¹⁷

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁸

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		25.6 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	84 (2020)
	Rural	84 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		0.01 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		99.0 (2015, Toronto)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		6.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

15. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

16. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Canada.pdf

17. It is available here: https://data.fcm.ca/documents/reports/Women/Getting_to_30_percent_by_2026_EN.pdf

18. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/can>